Senri.
Yes, Father?
I know you're turning eleven this year.
We've been arranging a marriage for you.
That Kasuga Group?!
I'm sure you'll recognize her. She's the sole heiress to the Kasuga Group.
While we may have the secrets passed down by our ancestors, we are still just a humble apothecary.
This engagement isn't just for the store. It'll be good for you in the future, as well.
Yeah, I am.
I'm sure you're worried since we sprang this on you.
You're being too serious about the wrong thing.
It's not a scam!
Father, this isn't some kind of scam, is it?
A town apothecary like ours would never...
SERIOUS

Oh, yes.
This is her picture.
Is this really okay?
I'm a woman, and I don't have any power.
Would we be happy together?
And she's younger than me.
A girl...
Don't worry
You're a kind girl, like your mother.
I'm sure you two will find happiness.
I can't wait to see the two of you get married.

Thoughts riding on the dancing sakura.
月が綺麗ですね
第二幕
伊藤ハチ
Itoh Hachi

The neighbors who came to assist

Hrrr!!! It's heavy!!
I'll carry some as well-
Trying to recover
Sure thing!
Um... Put it in that room...
And... I'm married now...
It's too much for you, Ojou-sama
OJOU-SAMA (X2)
There must be something I can do..
It's fine. Just take a seat and rest.
In the way
FINISHER
You're in the way, sitting there like that.
Ah!! Ojou-sama!?
It's not Ojou-sama!!
Call me Madam!!!
Oh...

I didn't get to see her even once this morning!
That's because you overslept, Ojou-sama.
By the time I woke up, she was already gone!
By the way, where's your husband, Senri-chan?
Senri-sama had to go to work, so she's not here right now.
I see. Senri-chan's always so busy.
That's right!
You could've woken me, Kayo...
I tried! But...
"Please let her sleep for a little longer."
Was what Senri-sama said.
Senri-sama is so nice!
Wow, she's all over her.
Newly-weds...
Ehehe
She's getting spoiled
You might get lonely with how busy Senri-chan is,
but please be patient with her.

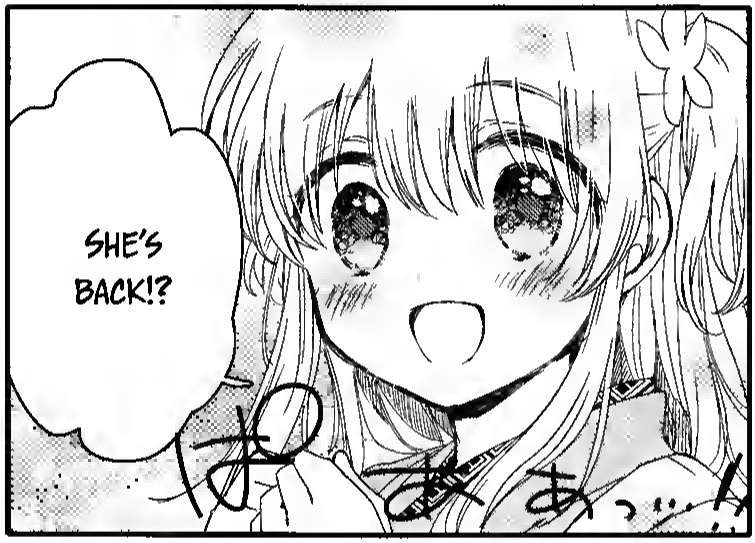
She's gone through a lot.
If not for that incident three years ago..

Three years ago?
That's about the time Senri-sama's father passed away

Get back to work, dear.
Okay, okay.

Wonder who that is I'll take a look
SLIDE

Oh.
I've...



only met Senri-sama seven years ago for the engagement.

I don't know anything about what's happened to her between then and now.

Who's the
GIRL
next to her?
Oh, Chiru-san.
I'm home.
I have something to discuss with our guest, so I'll be using the inner room
Sorry for not helping out during the move
It's fine!! Just leave it to us!
RING
Smile
CLOSE
Very pretty, isn't she?
Yeah.
Who is she?
I don't know
ぴ
ろ
ん

She said guest, but they seem close.
L-
Like friends?
Like lovers.
Now that you're married, we have to end this...
My parents chose her. You're the one I love.
I've seen that before in a book on Mother's bookshelf!
What are you reading, Madam!?

THEY CAN HEAR EVERYTHING.
BLUSH
Fufufufufu...
I hear you got yourself a wife
She's very adorable
This house you used to live in by yourself
has also become quite lively.
Speaking of which,
I brought these charms for a good marriage
And these are wedding gifts...
They're pillows
YES
NO
HAKU... THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAME FOR, RIGHT?
Oh, that's right. I'm sorry.

Let's see...
Hm?
She's taller now?
She's grown a lot, after all.
What do you think? Has anything changed about her?
And her hair's longer, too.
I heard you saw your wife once in the past...
Oh.
It was seven years ago, when we got engaged
Senri-san, you should learn to choose your words a little more carefully
For the sake of your married life ahead of you.
You can say things like "She's gotten even prettier," can't you?
S-SORRY...
I'm no good at that.
I only saw her for a moment,
but she looks about sixteen.

She's a cute, innocent girl
who's been raised with care for her whole life, isn't she?
...Yeah.
I've had that impression about her
from the day we first met.

She doesn't get it...
SPACING OUT
Shinonome Senri.
Chiru, this is your future marriage partner. (konyakusha)
Chiru's jelly person? (konnyakusha)
Father, she's
KONNYAKU, OR KONJAC. USED LIKE TOFU IN COOKING.
Senri, we parents have things to talk about.
Go take a walk with Chiru-san.
Father loves jelly in stews!
Hahaha
Oh, silly Chiru.
Jelly?
Oho hoho

Wow!!
So pretty!!
In these bushes.
Quietly...
Look over here, Senri-sama!!
Did you find something?
This is Mother. That one is Father. And here is me... and Kayo!
So cute!
A family of wild rabbits.
Kayo?
Hey, Senri-sama
Yes?
Kayo is...

Why isn't Senri-sama's mother here today?
...My mother couldn't come.
Is she busy?
No...
She passed away when I was young.
I see...
÷2
I wish I could split half of Mother with you...
That's kinda...
I'll pass...
Are you lonely without your mother around?
It was a long time ago, and my father's with me...
But I do get a little lonely, sometimes.
I know! Senri-sama

we'll become family!!
Father said that
Ehehe
Then you won't be lonely anymore, Senri-sama!
Oh! But wait until I grow up, okay?
Or am I not good enough?
...You're fine
Thank you.

What should we do? It's getting late...
and we don't know where she's gone...
Senri-san!
Chiru-san? She was here a moment ago...
We were talking for so long she must've gotten bored and gone outside
We haven't been able to find Chiru..
Ah!
Chiru-san...
I'm coming for you right now!
I think I know where she is!!
Senri-san?

Chiru-san!!
I'm sorry!
I'm sorry!
ぎゅう...
So that's where you were. I'm in luck.
I'm right.
Senri-samaaa...
Hah
Hah
It's fine now.
Come on, let's go home.

Senri-san?
Your father.
Sorry, what were we talking about?
Um, Haku...
but now with your wife there's two of you...
And you've been living alone since then,
After losing your mother, you lost your father in that incident...

You haven't told her yet?
Your wife.
Yes...
About that incident...
but I told them not to tell Chiru about it.
Her parents know about it.
Wouldn't it be worse if she learns about it through someone else?
Unnecessary?
I don't want to make her to worry about something unnecessary
ゆっ...

Marriage is about being able to rely on each other.
Kyu...
Chiru-san?
The story's getting wilder.
Chiru-san, I'm going out again...
After Senri-sama elopes with her lover, leaving Ojou-sama alone, she...
STOP IT, KAYO!
I have work...

They left together.
Sneaking around
Let's go, Chiru-sama.
HUH? WE'RE TAILING THEM!?
Senri-sama, um...
I'll try to come home as soon as I can.
There's your move-in, as well
Don't you want to know whether they're in a dirty relationship or not?
Like I said...
Senri-sama isn't the type of person who would do that!!
BUT IF YOU'RE THAT INSISTENT ABOUT IT...
LET'S GO, KAYO!
Ok!

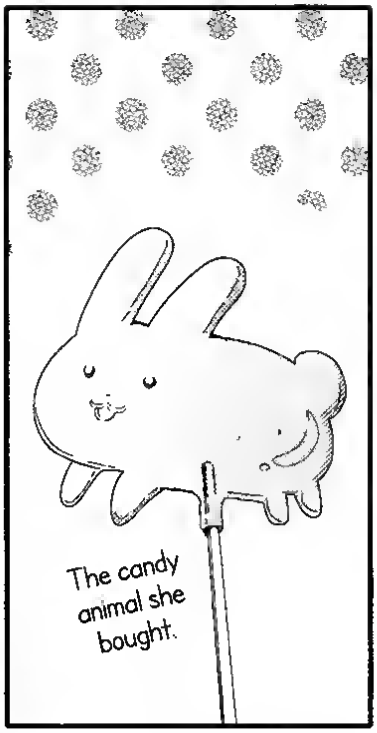
We're at the shopping district.
Ojou-sama, what should we do-
Who do we tail?
Senri-sama's leaving!!
Oh, they're splitting up!!
Where are they heading..
STOP
Ojou-sama!!!
It's dango.
HEY KAYO, THIS LOOKS GOOD.
It's tasty!

I recommend the mitarashi dango at that store.
SHE OVERHEARD EVERYTHING!!
From this far away!?
SHOCKED
TURN
Um...
Could you tell us when you realized you were being tailed?
Let's see...
From the time we left Senri-san's house
You mean from the very beginning!?
She's very skilled, Ojou-sama.
But she bought dango for me, so I'm sure she's a nice person.
WHISPER
WHISPER
Chomp

Tremble
What kind of
relationship do you have with Senri-sama?
U-Um...
C'mon, Ojou-sama. There's something you want to ask, right?
Shove
We're lovers. ♥
Grin
Just kidding.
Finish your dango.
You look like an idiot.
I knew it.

My name is Amemiya Haku.
I've been friends with Senri-san since we were children.
So that's why you seemed so close...
We're not the same age, though.
I work here as a fortune teller
Come talk to me if you have any problems.
Other than fortune telling, I also offer charms and ceremonies, so please come and visit.
Flyer
And as a fortune teller, my advice to you would be:
"Keep your eyes on your mistress or she'll get lost"
OJOU-SAMA!!!
Pretty...
This candy's good.

SUPER OJOU-SAMA-LIKE COMMENT
But it's my first time at a shopping district...
It's so fun I just...
Don't wander off by yourself, please!!


The candy animal she bought.

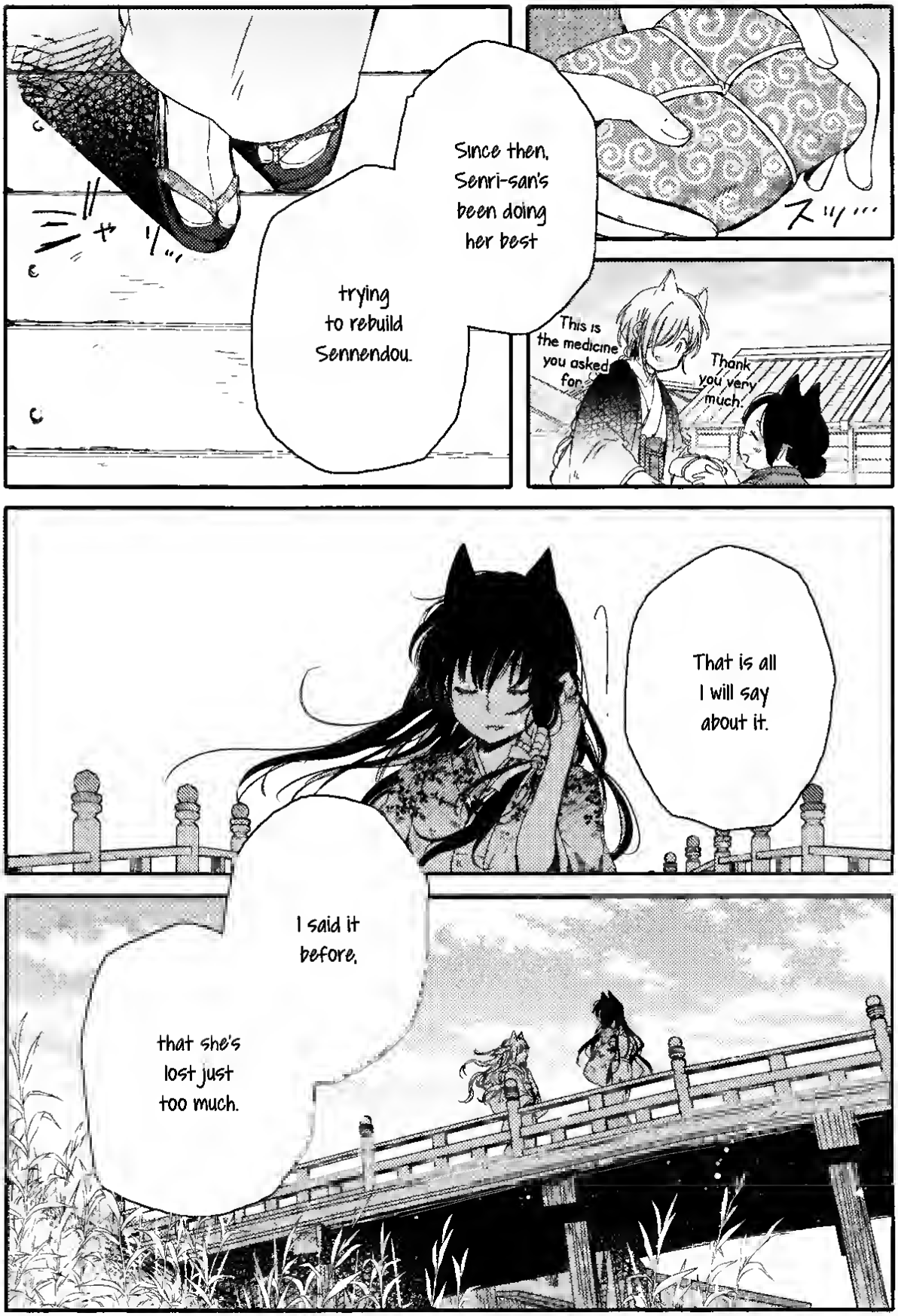
Thank you very much!
Ehehehe
I love people like that.
I see it's not just your appearance, but your thinking's quite adorable as well
That's not a compliment.

I really think Senri-sama's fortunate
to marry someone like you.

.....
You're so mean, Kayo!
But I can't deny it's true...!

she's lost just too much.
For an eighteen-year-old,
Lost?
Does that have to do with her father passing away?

Did you see the burnt cherry tree in the garden?
...Yes.
Sennendou used to be a much larger apothecary.
But three years ago, a manservant's mistake caused a fire.
Half the building burned down, and her father died.

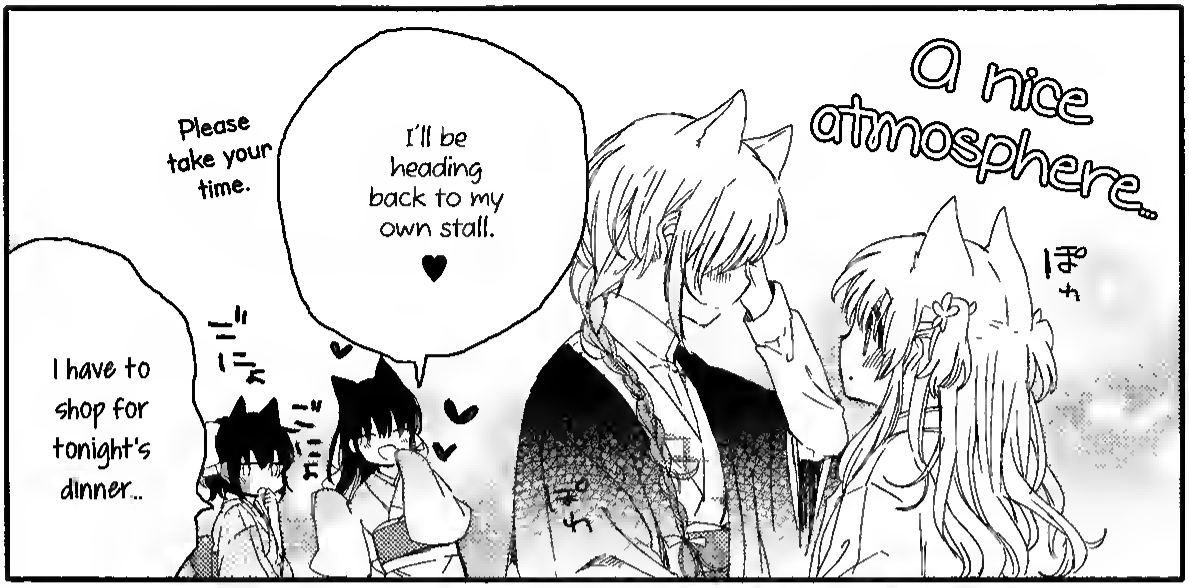

Since then, Senri-san's been doing her best
trying to rebuild Sennendou.
This is the medicine you asked for.
Thank you very much.
That is all I will say about it.
I said it before,
that she's lost just too much.

I wish for her to be able to regain those things and find happiness.
I am asking this of you, the only family left to her.
Can you do it?

Um...
I don't know anything about the world. I can't take care of myself, and I've been living a sheltered life..
I don't know what Senri-sama's gone through.
There's so much I don't know about.
But there's one thing I know

Just by being with Senri-sama,
I'll be happy!
Not just me... Senri-sama, Kayo, and even Haku-san!
And our neighbors too.
I want all of us to be happy!

TURN
Hehe
That's what she said.
Senri-san!
Kyah!!
Senri-sama!? When did you...
Embarrassed
Um...
I was done with work and
I saw you on my way back...
Er...


A nice atmosphere...
Please take your time.
I'll be heading back to my own stall.
I have to shop for tonight's dinner...

What did you hear from her?
She told me about the fire...
But she didn't give me the details...

Um... Shall we head home?
Y-Yes...
Haku likes to tease people...
Did she say anything weird to you?
No!! She was interesting

!
But we're husband and wife.

I wasn't trying to hide the past.
I'm still scared of remembering and talking about it...

It'll take a long time before I can know everything about you,

but take your time and slowly tell me

what I don't know about you,

Chiru-san, you're still awake?
You've had a long day. I'll make some tea.
She wouldn't listen to me and wanted to stay up until you were done, Senri-sama.
I'll get ready to sleep, then.
Ah! Your hair's messy, Senri-sama!
It's a bother to do in the morning, so I don't put much effort in it.
I'm about to untie it, so it's fine.
Senri-sama!
Can I do your hair every morning!?
You'll do it? I wake up really early, you know?
Yes!!
I'll do my best!
Yes!
Yes!

To be continued.

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